



**Yeovil Rural District Council**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

**31st DECEMBER, 1958**



YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1958

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health	:	P. Power Fox, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	:	Brynmor Morris, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspectors	:	J. T. Dallimore, M.A.P.H.I. Douglas N. Sibley, M.A.P.H.I.
Housing Inspector	:	S. R. Barham.
Housing Welfare Officer	:	Mrs. D. K. Trow.

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TO THE  
CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE  
YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1958.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births The total number of live births was 381, which shows a decrease of 10 as compared with the previous year (391). The live birth rate was 15.5 as compared with England and Wales 16.4.

Deaths The number of deaths of infants under the age of one year was 9, the Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 23.6, as compared with 12.7 for the previous year and 22.5 for England and Wales.

The Standardised Death Rate was 10.4 as compared with 9.3 for the previous year, the Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.7. Of the total number of deaths, viz., 235, 157 occurred in people who were aged 70 years and over.

Infectious Diseases

The number of infectious diseases notified was 192, which shows a decrease of 102, as compared with the previous year. There were no cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis notified.

FLUORIDATION

A survey carried out in Somerset by the Chief Dental Officer has shown that only 12.3% of children aged five years have perfect teeth and that only 2.7% of children aged 12 years have perfect teeth, i.e., that 97.3% of children aged 12 years have some teeth that are decayed, missing or have been filled because of previous dental disease, and this figure of 97.3% has risen from that of 77.7% since 1948.

Prevention of dental disease and decay is, and has been, largely influenced by diet - immediately after the war, i.e., after a period when sweets and sugar had been severely restricted, a survey then showed that 21.8% of five year old children had 100% sound teeth and 12.3% of 12 year old children also had completely caries-free teeth. In 1958 these figures had altered, the five year old children had improved to 22.3%, but the 12 year old children had dropped to 2.7%. I think it is reasonable to draw the following inference; that mothers are beginning to recognize the danger of unrestricted and indiscriminate feeding of children with sweet confections and sweets, but that once the child has become aged five years then he receives pocket money and is allowed to spend it on sweets, etc., which he can consume as and when he likes. The education of parents is beginning to take effect, but the education of the children has still a long way to go before any obvious effect on the dental health will be noted.



In previous Annual Reports I have stressed the value of fluoridation. Fluoridation consists of rectifying water which is naturally deficient of fluorine, by the addition of a fluoride salt, so that the water contains one part per million of fluorine. Unfortunately, the water supplies of Yeovil and the surrounding district contain less than 0.1 parts per million. It is difficult to comprehend why the appropriate Government Ministry, who are aware of the facts, and whose senior officials have advocated fluoridation, have not already authorized Local Authorities to arrange for fluoridation where necessary.

## CARAVANS

The number of caravans sited in the Yeovil Rural District and which are used as "permanent" habitations is now 230 (March, 1959). Of these, 185 are located on nine sites accommodating 2 - 70 caravans - the remaining 45 caravans are located on individual sites throughout the rural district.

The reasons for this comparatively high number is partly due to the Naval Air Station at Yeovilton (48 families), personnel being posted for relatively short and indefinite periods and inadequacy of married quarters for the personnel, and partly due to the housing shortage in Yeovil and the Rural District.

Superficial study of brochures concerning caravans gives the impression that caravans provide ideal homes, but in my opinion, the average caravan only provides sub-standard "housing" accommodation. Some of my reasons for reaching such a conclusion are as follows:

### 1. Lack of Adequate Space

Study of descriptive brochures of seven different caravans made by various manufacturers showed that the average floor space per person based on the over-all measurements of the caravans and the number of sleeping berths provided was 31.1 square feet per person. This space per person ranged from 28 sq.ft. to 59.5 sq.ft. Even this maximum space (59.5 sq.ft.) I consider grossly inadequate for other than temporary or holiday purposes. The main recommendation made by the Town and Country Planning Association, in its memorandum to the Ministry of Housing's special committee on Family Housing Standards, is that floor space is the most precious commodity in any dwelling. It should be axiomatic, says the Association, that any four person dwelling should have at least 900 sq.ft. (225 sq.ft. per person), i.e. seven times the average space provided in a caravan.

### 2. Lack of Larder and Food Storage Space

All but the most luxurious caravans are deficient in this respect, and it is only the relative few which are fitted with refrigerators. Apart from the health factor, such a disability must add to the cost of living.

### 3. Lack of Laundry Facilities

Again due to lack of space the drying of laundry and of outdoor clothing must present almost insuperable difficulties in wet weather and add to the stress of present day living.

### 4. Lack of Bathing Facilities

The average caravan is not fitted with a bath or with a running hot and cold water supply. During an enquiry made some months ago, I was told that neither the wife or the husband had had a bath for at least nine months. Apart from the hardship to the individuals, this enforced lack



of cleanliness could be of importance to the rest of the community, if such people were employed in the handling of food.

#### 5. Unsuitability for Home Nursing

It is generally accepted that people, and in particular, children, should be nursed at home, rather than in hospital, providing that the particular illness can be nursed at home. Unless the illness is a minor one, I do not consider caravan accommodation is suitable. Occasionally caravans do have a separate caravan compartment used solely for sleeping, but even so such sleeping accommodation is not insulated against hot and cold weather to the same degree as normal housing accommodation.

#### 6. Lack of Space for Social Life

Humanity in general is gregarious in its habits and the average person likes to entertain and be entertained in the home. This social life is difficult to provide in caravans, particularly if there are children, who should be in bed and sleeping, hours before the adults wish to terminate the social occasion.

For these and other reasons I consider caravans as an extremely unsatisfactory solution to shortage of housing accommodation. Living in a caravan may be more satisfactory than living in unsatisfactory rooms, or with "in laws", but they are not a satisfactory solution to the housing shortage. To provide a satisfactory solution is not easy, but it should be axiomatic that caravanners so far as possible should not be at a disadvantage as compared with other members of the community.

Legislation should provide safeguards so as to ensure satisfactory standards in regard to the caravans and also in regard to the sites. I consider that the sites should be sufficiently large so that it is economically feasible to provide all the public services associated with a normal housing estate, viz., water sewerage, electricity, etc. The site should provide accommodation for children, especially those under school age, to play in wet as well as dry weather. Consideration should be given to the provision of a communal refrigerator, where individual lockers would be available for those people whose caravans are not fitted with refrigerators. The provision of a laundry service should receive consideration and fire precautions should be sine qua non.

The site should be adequately provided with roads and hard standings for the caravans, and there should be ample provision of bathing and toilet facilities. The use of extractor fans, both to reduce the stale smell of cooking and to reduce condensation, deserves consideration as a standard fitting of such caravans. With regard to the location of the site, preferably this should not be isolated so as to render shopping, attendance of children at school, etc., difficult.

### MATERNAL SURVEY

The upward trend of admissions of patients to maternity units has continued, in 1956 the percentage was 69%, in 1957 the percentage was 75%, and the figure for 1958 was 78.7%. The percentage of institutional confinements in England and Wales was 64.6% for the year 1957. The Cranbrooke Report advocated a national admission average of 70%. One effect of the high admission rate has been to cause overcrowding of beds and nursery accommodation at Yeovil Maternity Home and overcrowding of the nursery accommodation at Balidon House. The attention of the Management Committee and of the Regional Hospital Board has been drawn to this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

A more satisfactory feature of the survey was the figure of 99.5% of women who had had an Rh. investigation of their blood either during their last pregnancy or a previous pregnancy.

I have the pleasure in again recording my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Council, from the Public Health Committee and from the Members of the Staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. P. FOX.

Medical Officer of Health.



## YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT

### STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1958

Area (in acres) ... ..	53,495
Rateable Value (31st March, 1959) ... ..	£202,214
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate in year ending 31st March, 1959. ... ..	£836.15s.0d.
No. of inhabited houses (31st March, 1959)	7,283
Population ... ..	24,540

### PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Yeovil Rural District, comprising an area of 53,495 acres, is situated in the South-East area of the County of Somerset and is composed of 31 rural parishes.

The area in general is not very much above sea level; the greatest point of elevation being Ham Hill, 426 feet above sea level.

### WATER SUPPLY

The water supply during the year has been satisfactory, the impounding reservoir at Sutton Bingham being completed in early December, 1955. The capacity of the reservoir is 575 million gallons, with an estimated net yield of 2.4 million gallons per day. Detailed information regarding bacteriological and chemical analyses are included in the Senior Public Health Inspector's Report.

### METEOROLOGY

The climate is mild and relaxing. There is little fog or mist.

### RAINFALL

The rainfall for the year 1958 as recorded at the Sutton Bingham Reservoir was 35.21 ins.

### OCCUPATION

The main industry of the District is agriculture, which is chiefly of a dairying and grazing nature. In addition, the manufacture of gloves is an important industry, glove factories being located at Martock, Stoke-sub-Hamdon and at Tintinhull, in addition to the glove making which is carried out in the homes. A considerable proportion of people resident in the Rural District are employed in the Yeovil Borough.

### HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services are mainly situated in the Yeovil Borough. The South Petherton Hospital, which deals with infectious diseases is situated in the Rural District. The Hospital Services are administered by the South Somerset Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the South Western Regional Hospital Board. Situated in the Borough are

- (1) The Yeovil and District Hospital - an acute general hospital.
- (2) Summerlands Hospital - mainly used as a geriatric hospital.
- (3) Yeovil Maternity Hospital (Crossways) - 14 beds.
- (4) Balidon Maternity Hospital - a General Practitioners Unit. (17 beds)

The Yeovil Hospital consists of 88 beds, of which six are private, the number of in-patients treated was 2,577, and the number of new out-patients 5,210. The number of X-ray examinations carried out was 18,686. In considering these figures, it must be borne in mind that the area which the hospital now serves has considerably increased. Despite the valuable services which the hospitals carry out, it cannot be stated that the present hospital buildings and equipment are adequate for the present and potential requirements of the Borough and surrounding district. The matter is under review by the responsible authorities.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are treated at the South Petherton Hospital (50 beds). In general, only the Cubicle Block (10 beds) is required, and the other 40 beds are utilized for post-operative cases, so relieving the strain on the Yeovil Hospital and for General Practitioner patients and semi-chronic sick.

#### TUBERCULOSIS

A chest clinic is held on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Yeovil Hospital. Patients requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to Sanatoria at Quantock and Taunton.

#### CHRONIC SICK

Summerlands Hospital (97 beds), which is situated in the Borough, is the largest hospital in the area used for this purpose. This hospital was originally a Poor Law Institute built in 1837, and the layout, etc., does not conform with the accepted standards of today. Further, there is a constant shortage of nursing staff, but despite these handicaps, valuable work is carried out by the staff of the hospital.

#### LABORATORY SERVICE

A small laboratory is located at the Yeovil Hospital. A Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory in Taunton, at which bacteriological examination of swab, blood, sputum and faeces is carried out. Bacteriological and chemical analyses for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluent are also carried out.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is a responsibility of the Somerset County Council. The Ambulance Control Office is located at Summerlands Hospital. The ambulances and the larger type of vehicles for sitting cases are in radio communication with the control office. A daily 24 hour service is maintained.

#### HOUSING

No. of houses, etc., completed during the year to 31st December, 1958 = 16.

Houses, etc., erected post-war = 785.

Houses, etc., sold post-war = 18.

Houses, etc., erected by Local Authority and still owned by them = 1,703.

No. of applicants on the waiting list as at the 31st December, 1958 = 358.



# VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The statistics furnished by the Registrar General show the number of births and deaths after correction has been made for transfers to the normal place of residence of the individuals concerned. From these figures can be calculated the "crude" birth and death rates. As, however, the highest mortality occurs at the two extremes of life, and industrial areas in general have a bigger proportion of people living in the middle age periods of life, some correction must be made for the irregularities of distribution as regards age and sex, as otherwise the death rate will afford no accurate means of comparing the healthiness of one district with another. This comparability factor is furnished by the Registrar General and applied to the "crude" birth or death rate, gives a standardised rate and enables comparison to be made with the rate for England and Wales, or with rates of other districts.

Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	381
Live Birth rate	...	...	...	...	...	15.5
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	16
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	40.3
Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	397
Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	9
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	23.6
" " " " 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	23.9
" " " " 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	...	...	-
Neo-natal Mortality rate (First four weeks) per 1,000 related live births	...	...	...	...	...	18.3
Early Neo-natal Mortality rate (First week) per 1,000 related live births	...	...	...	...	...	18.3
Perinatal Mortality rate (stillbirths + deaths during the first week) per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	57.9
Percentage of illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	13.1
Maternal Deaths (excluding abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	-
Maternal Mortality rate (including abortion) per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	-

## BIRTHS

(a) <u>Live Births</u>			1958	1957
		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	186	190	376
Illegitimate	...	4	1	5
Total	...	190	191	381

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimate population	...	15.5	16.1
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimate population	...	16.4	17.06
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	16.4	16.1

(b) <u>Still Births</u>			1958	1957
		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	10	6	16
Illegitimate	...	-	-	-
Total	...	10	6	16

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	40.3	11.2
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	21.6	23.0

## DEATHS

		Male	Female	1958	1957
				Total	Total
Total Deaths	...	119	116	235	204
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	9.5	8.4
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	10.4	9.3
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	11.8	11.5



## MATERNAL MORTALITY

Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes	...	Nil.

		1958	1957
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	46	39
Deaths from Heart Disease (all ages)	...	78	55
Deaths from Phthisis (all ages)	...	-	1

## BIRTHS

The total number of births was 381, 190 males and 191 females. Of these, 5 were illegitimate, 4 males and 1 female. The table below shows the birth rate for the previous ten years.

### BIRTH RATES

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
17.3	19.9	15.77	15.00	14.72	14.3	16.3	16.4	14.8	17.06	16.4

## DEATHS

There was an increase in the total number of deaths, 235 in 1958, as compared with 204 for the previous year. The Standardised Death Rate was 10.4 as compared with 9.3 for the previous year. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.7. The following table shows the age and sex incidence, and it will be noted that amongst the males, of the 119 deaths, 99 occurred amongst those 65 years and over, and 57 amongst those 75 years and over. Of the females, out of the total of 116 deaths, 106 were 65 years and over, 74 were 75 years and over.

### AGES AT DEATH 1958

Ages at Death in years	Males	Females	Total
Under 1	6	3	9
1	-	-	-
5	1	-	1
15	1	-	1
25	3	2	5
45	9	5	14
65	28	20	48
Total under 70	48	30	78
70	14	12	26
75	19	19	38
80	17	19	36
85	14	12	26
90	7	20	27
95	-	4	4
Over 100	-	-	-
Total over 70	71	86	157
Total	119	116	235

The Crude Death Rate for the past ten years is as follows:-

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
10.3	11.66	11.26	10.48	10.13	7.6	9.34	10.2	9.5	9.3	9.5

The following table shows the causes of death and the sex distribution.

Causes of Death	1958	
	Males	Females
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	1	3
" " Lung, Bronchus	7	2
" " Breast	-	4
" " Uterus	-	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	15
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	22	15
Coronary disease, angina	19	18
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2
Other heart disease	15	22
Other circulatory disease	5	8
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	4	2
Bronchitis	7	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
Nethritis and Nephrosis	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Congenital malformations	3	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	2
All other accidents	6	-
Suicide	1	1
	119	116

#### CANCER

The number of deaths due to Cancer (all forms) was 46. The table as set out below shows the incidence of Cancer for previous years.

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
28	51	37	46	32	30	35	31	40	39	46

CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION:

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Yeovil Rural District	1.4	2.7	1.7	1.92	1.33	1.22	1.50	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.8
County of Somerset	1.9	1.9	1.89	2.00	1.98	1.84	2.06	2.045	1.89	2.054	2.018
England & Wales	1.8	1.8	1.94	1.96	1.99	1.99	2.035	2.056	2.1	2.1	2.12

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 9, as compared with 5 for the year 1957. The rate per thousand of live births was 23.6, as compared with England and Wales - ~~16.4~~ 22.5

The following table shows the number of deaths and the Infantile Mortality Rate as compared with previous years..

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Number of deaths	14	7	12	9	7	9	9	9	5	9
Rate per 1,000 live births in Rural District	37.4	22.8	36.44	27.19	21.08	25.2	23.07	25.2	12.7	23.6
Rate per 1,000 live births in England & Wales	32	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.5	25.5	24.9	23.8	<del>16.1</del> <u>23.1</u>	<del>16.4</del> <u>22.5</u>

CAUSES OF DEATH

Spina Bifida	..	..	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	..	..	1
Prematurity	..	..	1
Congenital Heart Disease			3
Pneumonia	..	..	2
Atelectasis	..	..	1
			<u>9</u>

AGE OF DEATH

Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1 month or under	Under 1 year
4	7	8	9



## MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the details of infectious diseases during the year and also the figures for the previous year.

Disease	Cases Notified	
	1958	1957
Food Poisoning .. .. .	-	49
Poliomyelitis .. .. .	-	13
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	6	7
Measles .. .. .	158	106
Pneumonia .. .. .	10	13
Whooping Cough .. .. .	14	103
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	2	1
Typhoid .. .. .	-	1
Erysipelas .. .. .	2	-
Paratyphoid .. .. .	-	1
Total ..	192	294

## DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNIZATION

In general, all infants immunized against Diphtheria are also immunized against Whooping Cough, using the combined injections. Provision is made for the occasional infant, when for special reasons immunization against Whooping Cough is not indicated, for immunization against Diphtheria only to be carried out.

The number of infants under the age of 12 months immunized against Diphtheria was 256, the number immunized against Whooping Cough was 254. The number of children under the age of 5 years who had a primary course of immunization against Diphtheria was 313, and against Whooping Cough was 306. The figures for children 0 - 14 years was 336 and 313 respectively. In addition, 145 children received reinforcement doses against Diphtheria.

## SMALLPOX VACCINATION

The total number of primary vaccinations carried out for children under the age of 5 years was 302, 277 being carried out for children under the age of 12 months. The total number of primary vaccinations was 313, and in addition, 35 re-vaccinations were also carried out.

The following table indicates the immunization state.

<u>1958</u>	Total "Primaries" under 5 years	Live births of preceding year i.e. "potential"	Percentage immunized	Total "Primaries"
Diphtheria	313	391	80%	336
Whooping Cough	306	391	78.2%	313
Smallpox	277	391	70.8%	313

## ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

There were no cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis notified during the year. The number of individuals inoculated against Poliomyelitis was

Children (1943-1958)	..	2,760
Expectant Mothers	..	76
Others	..	10
Total ..		<u>2,846</u>

Anterior Poliomyelitis is notorious for its variable behaviour and incidence, and it would be premature to assume that the decline in incidence was due to the inoculations carried out.

## TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year was 12, Non-pulmonary 4. There were no deaths recorded as due to Pulmonary or Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
No. of cases notified Pulmonary ...	12	5	8	9	15	14	19	15	12	21
No. of cases notified Non-Pulmonary	4	2	5	6	5	1	8	4	1	2
No. of deaths Pulmonary ...	-	1	2	2	-	4	3	1	2	6
No. of deaths Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	2
Death Rate of respir- atory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	-	0.04	0.08	0.08	-	0.1	0.1	0.04	0.09	0.32

## AGE & SEX INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS

AGE		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	...	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	...	1	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
45	...	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Total		7	5	-	4	-	-	-	-



## MASS RADIOGRAPHY

No examinations by the Mass Radiography Service were carried out in Yeovil during the year 1958. Details of examinations carried out in previous years are set out below.

No. of Examinations Carried Out				No. of Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Notified	
				Active	Inactive
1948	..	..	4,260	9	32
1949	..	..	2,298	13	31
1950	..	..	2,316	4	41
1951	..	..	3,015	8	34
1952	..	..	4,191	9	37
1953	..	..	4,460	12	22
1954	..	..	4,561	6	32
1955	..	..	4,109	1	24
1956	..	..	3,490	2	75
1957	..	..	7,520	3	4

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

### Infant Welfare Clinics

The establishment and maintenance of the Welfare Clinics are a direct responsibility of the Somerset County Council and during recent years the number of such clinics in the Yeovil Rural District has been increased to 7. At each clinic, other than the Houndstone Camp Clinic, a doctor engaged by the Somerset County Council attends regularly, also a District Nurse. Facilities are available for the purchase of Infant Welfare Foods, including National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, etc., and certain proprietary dried milk preparations, which are sold at the clinics at special prices. Apart from other considerations, the clinics have an important educational value. Associated with each Clinic is a Voluntary Committee, the value of whose services it would be difficult to over emphasize. The W.V.S. assist considerably by distributing the Foods from the Public Health Centre, Preston Road, Yeovil, to the individual clinics. The following table sets out the attendances, etc., at the various clinics.

	Mar- tock	Stoke- sub- Hamdon	South Pether- ton	West Coker	Hound- stone	Wrax- Hill Road	Ilch- ester	Total
No. of children who attended for the first time ...	58	25	47	23	46	27	87	313
No. of children who attended during the year ...	91	79	105	64	129	64	178	710
Total attendances of children during the year ...	339	586	608	301	197	233	805	3,069
Average attendance of children per session ...	28	24	25	25	16	23	35	26
Total No. of children examined by doctor	61	52	50	46	-	24	88	321
Total No. of sessions	12	24	24	12	12	10	23	117
No. of individual mothers who attended	78	55	101	47	89	43	160	573



## BIRTHS

Live Births ..	Legitimate	376	Illegitimate	5	Total	381
Still Births ..	"	<del>18</del> 16	"	<del>8</del> —	"	16
Infant Deaths ..	Legitimate	<del>6</del> 9	Illegitimate	<del>8</del> —	Total	9

## BLOOD EXAMINATION CLINIC

This clinic was commenced in 1947, and was, I think, the first local authority clinic in Somerset. It is held at the Preston Road Clinic, Yeovil. Since its inception, 4,861 individual pregnant women have been examined, 621 examinations being carried out in 1958. The area from which the patients are drawn, are, as would be expected, mainly the Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District. Patients are referred by the private practitioner or midwife, without previous appointment. A card showing the patient's blood group, and whether she is Rh. Positive or Rh. Negative, is forwarded to her direct, together with a covering letter emphasizing the importance of her retaining the card in case she ever requires a blood transfusion for any purpose. A report giving further information, including percentage of haemoglobin and W.R. test, is forwarded to the private doctor, and a copy of this report is also forwarded to the midwife or Matron of the maternith home, depending on where the patient is having her confinement. Previously, similar information was forwarded to Yeovil Hospital in case the patient was admitted there for any reason and required a blood transfusion, but a copy is now forwarded direct by the Laboratory doing the tests.

A record of all blood tests is also kept at the Public Health Department. In the case of second or subsequent pregnancies of Rh. Negative women, as the test is normally carried out early in pregnancy, a further test is carried out six to eight weeks before the expected date of confinement, to exclude antibodies. If antibodies are found to be present, and if in sufficient quantities to threaten the welfare of the baby when born, arrangements are made for the baby to be born either at Bristol or Taunton, so that the blood transfusion of the baby can be carried out if necessary. The number of babies whose life has been saved by this procedure now runs into double figures and is a source of considerable gratification.

## MATERNITY SURVEY

As in the previous year, a survey was again carried out, based on women whose babies were born during the year 1958. In order to obtain sufficient large figures, the survey includes confinements both in the Yeovil Borough and the Yeovil Rural District. Analyses of these figures gave the following results.

### Domiciliary Confinements

105 women had their confinements at home, i.e. 21.2% of the total number of confinements under review. A medical practitioner was present in 46.6% of confinements and Analgesia was given in 84.8% of confinements. 5.7% of the women who had their confinements at home attended for ante-natal exercises.

### Confinements in Maternity Units

389 women had their confinements in a maternity unit, i.e. 78.7% of the number under review. This percentage is higher than the previous year (75.2%) and shows the increasing trend in institutional midwifery. It is doubtful whether this trend is a desirable one, since apart from other factors, there

is an increased risk of infection, especially that due to Staphylococcal organisms. Of the 389 patients admitted to maternity units, 149 were admitted on obstetrical grounds, 173 on social grounds, 8 as emergencies, and 39 patients availed themselves of the amenity beds. A medical practitioner was present in 50.6% of confinements in maternity units.

Blood Tests

The number of women who had had a blood test, either for the pregnancy under review, or for a previous pregnancy, was 423, i.e. 99.5%. This figure I regard as highly satisfactory.

Analgesia

84.8% of women who had a domiciliary confinement received some form of Analgesia. In the case of patients confined in maternity units, the figure was 92.3%.

Dental Treatment

The percentage of expectant mothers who had had dental treatment was 52.4%. It is recognized that all women should be dentally examined during pregnancy, and if necessary receive the appropriate treatment, since because of the demand of the foetus on the mother, there is an increased risk of dental caries.

Ante-natal Talks

As in previous years, invitations are forwarded to expectant mothers having their first babies, to attend a series of ante-natal talks. The number of women attending during 1958, was 100. In general, it is difficult for patients living in the Yeovil Rural District to attend.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This service continues to render excellent assistance and the following table indicates the scope of its activities.

No. of cases who received help in 1958.

<u>Type of Case</u>	<u>Yeovil Rural District</u>
Maternity .. .. .	25
Old Age and Infirmary .. .. .	66
Tuberculosis .. .. .	-
Chronic Illness .. .. .	5
Emergency Illness .. .. .	5
Families of motherless children .. .. .	-
Total .. .. .	101

A number of old age and chronic sick cases have received help for two or more years.

NATIONAL ASSISTANT ACT

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1) WATER SUPPLIES

Operation of the treatment works and pumping station at the Sutton Bingham Reservoir continued without incident, providing a supply for substantially the whole of the population of the Rural District and a bulk supply to the Yeovil Corporation.

Number of samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	...	123
Number of samples reported satisfactory	...	...	...	...	121
Number of samples reported unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	2
Number of samples taken for Chemical Examination	...	...	...	...	18
Number of samples reported satisfactory	...	...	...	...	18
Number of samples reported unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	NIL
Rainfall recorded during year at Sutton Bingham Reservoir.	Rainfall Station	...	...	...	35.56

2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Ilchester - An extension of the sewer to the Mead was completed during the year at a cost of £2,800.

3) PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of refuse is carried out -  
weekly in five parishes,  
part weekly/part fortnightly in five parishes,  
fortnightly in nineteen parishes and in the remaining parish it is collected part fortnightly and part monthly. Isolated farm houses and other premises where access is difficult are collected monthly.



## SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Inspections of sewerage and drainage	...	...	208
Inspections for nuisances	...	...	49
Informal Notices served and complied with	...	...	36
Drainage Tests and Inspections	...	...	141
Houses disinfected	...	...	6
Inspections of Water Supplies	...	...	95
Slaughterhouse Inspections	...	...	424
Shops and Offices	- It was not found necessary to take any special action under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.		
Smoke Abatement	- It was not found necessary to take any action.		

## SECTION D

### HOUSING AND HOUSING INSPECTIONS

1)	<u>NEW HOUSES</u>	Houses erected during the year.	
	Local Authority	- For Slum Clearance	... 12
		For other purposes	... 4
	Houses in course of erection		
		For Slum Clearance	... 22
		For other purposes	... 8
2)	<u>PRIVATE ENTERPRISE</u>		
	Houses erected during year	...	80
	Houses in course of erection	...	43
	Houses gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	...	10
	Houses lost from conversion of two or more houses to one	...	12

### 3) HOUSING INSPECTIONS

1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts)	...	...	936
	(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose	...	...	1358
2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Regs. 1925 and 1932.	...	...	88
	(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose	...	...	136
	(c)	Number of houses in which no action necessary	...	...	NIL
3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human occupation	...	...	31
4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human occupation	...	...	105

### 4) HOUSING ACTION

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	62
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	...	...	NIL

### 5) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR (Proceedings under Sections 9, 16, 17, 18 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1957)

1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	NIL
2)	Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :-			
a)	By Owners	...	...	NIL
b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners			NIL

6)	<u>PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS</u>				
1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	10
2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :-				
a)	By Owners	...	...	...	10
b)	By Local Authority	...	...	...	NIL

7)	<u>PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 17 and 42 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1957.</u>				
1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...		2
2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	NIL
3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Undertakings were given not to let			...	12

8)	<u>PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1957.</u>				
1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	NIL
2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been made fit	...	...	...	NIL

9)	<u>HOUSING ACT 1957 - OVERCROWDING</u>				
(a) i.	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year (ESTIMATED)	...	...		50
ii.	Number of families dwelling therein (ESTIMATED)	...	...	...	80
iii.	Number of people dwelling therein (ESTIMATED)	...	...	...	260
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	4



(c) i.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	12
ii.	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	36
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	NIL

### SECTION E.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

##### FOOD PREMISES

The following shows the number of food premises etc., by type of business :-

Cafes etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	66

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 :-

Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Preserved Foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Number of Registered Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Inspections of Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Number of Private Slaughterhouses Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number operating	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

##### BYELAWS (UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938)

It was not found necessary to take any action.

##### ADULTERATION

The Council is not a Local Authority under the sale of Food and Drugs Act.

MEAT INSPECTION - Carcase and Offal inspected and condemned  
in whole or in part during the year :-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1779	4863	3120	8529	3329	NIL
Number inspected	1779	4863	3120	8529	3329	NIL
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	--	10	3	5	14	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	156	1024	6	1442	340	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9	21	---	17	10	
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	1	27	1	---	1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	863	1	---	149	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Less than 1	18	Less than 1	---	4.5	
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	---	---	---	---	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	---	---	---	---	
Generalised and totally condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for :-						
(a) Tuberculosis	432	32978	69	NIL	1034	
(b) Cysticercosis	108	---	---	---	---	
(c) Other	2055	29892	136	5606	2620	
Total (in lbs.) condemned	2595	62870	205	5606	3654	





YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the Yeovil Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report for the year ending the 31st December, 1958.

The work of the department during the year was mainly devoted to the inspection of houses in connection with :-

- 1) The slum clearance programme and applications for Improvement Grants, and
- 2) The inspection of animals slaughtered for human consumption.

During the year the following inspections and visits were made :-

<u>Type of Premises or Work</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Clean Air	3
Disinfestations and Disinfections	6
Drainage	171
Factories	52
<u>Food Premises</u>	
Bakehouses	3
Butchers	7
Cafes and Restaurants	6
Canteens and Mobile Canteens	4
Green Grocers	6
Grocers	12
Licensed premises and off Licences	5
Food sampling	13
Housing	491
Improvement Grants	180
Inspection of Food (other than meat)	6
Knackers Yards	2
Meat Inspection	424
Caravans	96
Nuisances	109

<u>Type of Premises or Work</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Offensive Trades	2
Refuse collection and disposal	262
Rodent Control	52
Slaughterhouses	9
Water Supplies	95
Petroleum Acts	39
Diseases of Animals Acts	6

### HOUSING

Further houses were dealt with in connection with the Council's Slum Clearance Programme as follows :-

Ash .....	1
Barwick .....	3
East Coker .....	1
Haselbury Plucknett .....	1
Martock .....	4
Odcombe .....	1
South Petherton .....	5
West Coker .....	2
Total .....	<u>18</u>
	=====

Fifteen of these houses were occupied and the families concerned were moved to either new or existing Council Houses.

### RENT ACT, 1957.

Two applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair. One was granted.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

32 applications for Improvement Grants involving 57 houses were received and approved during the year.

The number of applications in respect of owner occupiers was 16.

The average cost per dwelling approved during the year was £361.

The total amount of grant payable was £21,663.

## ICE CREAM

Six samples of Ice Cream were taken from the Manufacturer's premises. Five were satisfactory and one not quite satisfactory.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Three private slaughterhouses operated during the year.

A total of 21,620 animals were slaughtered and inspected during the year, an increase of 2,450 on the previous year.

During 1957 the percentage of bovine animals which on post mortem inspection were found to be affected with tuberculosis was 39%. During the period 19th March - 5th May, 1958, 250 reactors were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme, of these 43.9 % (123) were found to be affected with tuberculosis. After 15th May the number of cows slaughtered and found to be affected with tuberculosis noticeably decreased resulting in a substantial decrease in the percentage figure for the year 1958. (18%)



REFUSE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE

Generally the service provided by the Council as far as frequency of collection is concerned is comparatively above average provided by other Rural Districts in the County of Somerset. Five parishes are collected weekly, five others part weekly and part fortnightly, nineteen fortnightly and one parish part fortnightly and part monthly. I think the objective should be at least a fortnight collection for all premises in the district and an extension of the weekly service to other parts of the district. It is a matter of great concern to me that there are a considerable number of householders who because of their physical inability or because of old age are unable to carry their bins to the kerbside and are therefore, unless helped by neighbours, denied this service.

RECOVERY AND SALE OF SALVAGEABLE MATERIALS

A salvage scheme was started at the beginning of June. It was decided to recover all metals in addition to heavy metals (e.g. scrap iron), and also waste paper. At the end of the year the following materials had been recovered and sold.

Miscellaneous metals sold for .....	£110	1	5
Heavy mixed scrap .....	£ 41	5	0
Light Destructor scrap .....	£ 1	2	9
Waste paper including cardboard container waste .....	£192	13	4
<hr/>			
Total .....	£345	2	6
<hr/>			

CARAVANS

At the end of the year there were 42 licensed individual caravans in the area. There were four licensed caravan sites, one of which was licensed for seasonal use only. The site at Haselbury Plucknett was not used during the year. There was a total of 40 caravans on the sites situated at Ilchester and West Camel. The caravans on both these sites were occupied mainly by Naval personnel stationed at the R.N.A.S. Yeovilton. Up to the end of the year, apart from the unsatisfactory conditions which existed at the old Castle Farm Site at Ilchester and the use of which was discontinued when the new site was licensed, the use of caravans for residential purposes in the district had not given any undue cause for alarm.

RODENT CONTROL

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Council's Rodent Operators during the year.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agric- ultural	All other includ- ing busi- ness and industrial	Total
Number of inspections during year as result of					
(a) Notification	Nil	72	Nil	20	92
(b) Survey under the Act.	66	503	382	Nil	951
Number of properties found to be infested					
(a) Major	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Minor	58	122	52	20	252
Number of infested properties treated by the Council's Operators	58	122	4	20	204







